

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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STUMP STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF FLOYD SPENCE

Yesterday, the Congress and the nation lost a patriot, a gentleman, and one of the most ardent and tireless advocates for our men and women in uniform.

Floyd Spence devoted his life to the simple proposition that there are certain principles worth defending. Freedom, democracy, and the promise of global stability achieved through a policy of peace through strength formed the core values that Floyd advanced during his long and distinguished career in the military and then in public service.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Floyd Spence guided us through a difficult period of uncertain support for the military establishment, when the very values and traditions that define America's premier institution appeared to be under siege. His tireless efforts to chronicle the changing nature of the global security environment, the decay in military capability, and his critical role in securing additional budgetary resources are largely responsible for reversing the decade-long slide in military readiness.

Floyd's professional accomplishments also came in spite of significant personal adversity that would have humbled most everyone else. His grace and trademark good humor always overshadowed his personal challenges and constantly reminded those of us who knew him well that Floyd had a sense of purpose that was not to be easily denied. Rather, he seemed to draw additional strength and determination every time he cleared the personal obstacles put in his way.

It has been a rare privilege to serve in Congress with Floyd for the past 24 years. I will personally miss his leadership and friendship. I know I speak for all members of the House Armed Services Committee in saying that Floyd Spence leaves behind a proud legacy of accomplishment and service on behalf of the nation, the armed services, and the people of the Second District of South Carolina. Our hearts go out to his wife, Debbie, to his family, and his staff during this very difficult time.

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